

## ABSTRACT

An ascorbic acid-based composition and related method for the treatment of aging or photo-damaged skin is disclosed. The composition includes water and ascorbic acid, at least a portion of which has generally been pretreated by being dissolved under relatively high temperature and concentration conditions. The composition typically includes at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid and may advantageously be formulated to have a pH above 3.5. Generally, the composition also includes non-toxic zinc salt, tyrosine compound, and/or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In addition, the composition may include an anti-inflammatory compound, such as aminosugar and/or sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound. The topical composition may be in the form of a serum, a hydrophilic lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

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